



PRESS RELEASE

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MAINE DRUG TRAFFICKERS SENTENCED TO PRISON AND FORFEITS \$137,802 IN CASH TO THE UNITED STATES

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced today that FREDDIE ARNOLD KING, III, age 39 of Millinocket, Maine, was sentenced yesterday to 48 months in prison for Conspiracy to Possess 200 Pounds of Marijuana With Intent to Distribute in violation 21 U.S.C. § 846 and Felon in Possession of a Firearm in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1), and CASEY FITZGERALD, age 24 of Millinocket, Maine, was sentenced yesterday to 24 months in prison for Conspiracy to Possess 200 Pounds of Marijuana With Intent to Distribute in violation 21 U.S.C. § 846, by United States District Court Chief Judge Stephen M. McNamee, in Phoenix, Arizona. At the time sentencing, King and Fitzgerald agreed to forfeit \$137,802 that they had possessed in furtherance of the drug trafficking conspiracy to the United States. Assistant U.S. Attorney Frederick A. Battista stated "ATF, DEA and the Phoenix Police Department did an excellent job in luring King and Fitzgerald to Arizona and then arresting them as they attempted to buy 200 pounds of Marijuana with over \$100,000 in cash during an undercover sting."

Prior to yesterday's sentencings, King plead guilty to the charges and admitted the following facts on November 9, 2001. With respect to the drug trafficking charge, starting on January 3, 2001 and continuing until January 9, 2001, in the States of Arizona and Maine, King conspired with Fitzgerald to possess 200 pounds of marijuana to sell. In furtherance of the conspiracy, King and Fitzgerald possessed \$137,102 in cash and a 9mm Beretta handgun while they were in Phoenix, Arizona. As the two attempted to purchase

approximately 200 pounds of marijuana from government undercover agents on January 9, 2000, they were arrested and the bulk of the money and the gun was seized from King by ATF and DEA. With respect to the firearms charge, commencing on January 3, 2001 and continuing until January 9, 2001, King, having previously been convicted of the felony offense of Unlawful Trafficking in a Controlled Substance, in Middlesex Superior Court, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on September 28, 1995, possessed a Beretta, Model 92F, 9mm, semi-automatic pistol. King admitted that he had transported the firearm during the period of January 3 through January 9, 2001, from the State of Maine into the State of Arizona.

This conviction for Conspiracy to Possess Marijuana with Intent to Distribute (Approximately 200 pounds) in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846 carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, a \$1,000,000.00 fine, or both. A conviction for Felon in Possession of a Firearm in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) carries a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment, a \$250,000.00 fine, or both.

The investigation that led to the guilty plea and sentencing was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Drug Enforcement Administration with assistance from the Phoenix Police Department. King has been in custody since July 3, 2001, and Fitzgerald has been in custody since June 4, 2001. Both King and Fitzgerald were remanded to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons by Chief Judge McNamee.

This case was handled by Frederick A. Battista, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-01-104-PHX-SMM RELEASE No. 2002-048